

# Best & Worst Buys

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for a while, but by 72,000 miles it threatened to quit. I drove 100 miles to a dealer who replaced a computer module for \$527 after a 10-day wait. Then they told me a stuck valve in the carburetor was causing the pickup to run too rich. They replaced the carburetor for \$500. Meanwhile, I'm driving an old 1975 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup that I bought used 1 year ago for only \$800. It's a much more reliable vehicle."

**H. Frank Brooks, Kinston, N. Car.:** "This pickup gets excellent mileage and is a joy to use," says Frank, who has nevertheless had some problems with his 1988 GMC Sierra 1500 King Cab 4-WD pickup. "The automatic transmission equipped with over-drive had to be replaced at 500 miles. Various lights go on and off at the wrong time and the brake lights won't turn off."

**Todd Farnsworth, Pennant, Sask.:** Todd's impressed with his 1990 Deere 590 36-ft. windrower. "I've used it to cut 1,700 acres in all conditions and the only repair was to a broken knife section. My land is scattered over 25 miles so ease of transport was the major reason I selected this machine. The center delivery and wide swath opening allow for even feeding across the entire cylinder."

Todd isn't impressed with his 1989 5 hp Banjo pump. "It primed easily and pumped good when it was new, but it quit pumping altogether after very little use. Upon close inspection I noticed very small grooves in the impeller. The dealer told me that's all it takes to make it quit pumping. He isn't handling these pumps any more so I had to order a repair kit from a wholesaler."

**Dennis Andrews, Gate, Okla.:** Dennis had poor luck with his 1990 Case-IH 8840 swather equipped with a 16-ft. header and double windrow attachment. "It cuts well, but the double windrow attachment is a joke because it doesn't convey material as it should to double the windrow size. The reason was poor engineering on the hydraulic motor shaft that operates the canvas. I had to add a special-made key in order to make the system work under load. There's too much distance between the header and the front of the double windrow attachment for hay to be thrown. The engineers should spend some time in the field before sending out a machine like this."

**Paul Redfield, Madison, S. Dak.:** Paul says his loader-mounted Yaeger "Tree Scoop" (Rt. 2, Box 50, Madison, S. Dak. 57042 ph 605 256-3431) makes it easy to plant or move trees and is a "best buy". "I have six rows of 5 to 7-ft. tall cedar trees that serve as windbreaks. I thin the trees out by moving them with my Ford 8N tractor and the Tree Scoop. It can be adapted to a skid steer or tractor."

**Lawrence Edwards, Plentywood, Mont.:** "It has good power, handles well, and gets 18 mpg on the highway," says Lawrence, pleased owner of a 1989 GMC SLE Sierra Club Cab pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. V-8 engine.

**Tom Wall, Iowa City, Iowa:** Tom is disappointed with his Acu-Grain GMS 3 yield monitor. "I bought it for the 1989 harvest, but when it arrived the wires were unglued from the harness. It couldn't read the volume of grain consistently with readings varying plus or minus 10%. I was in con-

stant contact with the company to try to solve the problem. After two weeks of fighting to get it to work right, I gave up and sent it back. I then lost 20% of my refund for a "restocking charge". If you want to measure your yields, buy a scale."

Tom likes his Deere 2555 tractor equipped with mechanical front wheel drive and a 245 front-end loader. "I can't believe what this tractor can do. It works great on soft ground for loading round bales or manure, and it walks away with a 550 bu. wagon load of corn. It has good power and a short turning radius."

**Coy Prokup, Porum, Okla.:** Coy says his 1990 Sears Craftsman 3/4-in. electric drill is a "worst buy". "The chuck cracked

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the first time I used it so I returned it and got my money back. Then I bought a 3/8-in. Craftsman electric drill. The first time I used it the chuck froze up and I couldn't get the bit out. I returned it also. Sears used to put out the best material and workmanship. Today they put out junk."

On the "best buy" side, "My Makita 14-in. cutoff saw cuts fast. No problems."

**Corey Baker, Rushville, Ohio:** Corey's had bad luck with his Pax 6 bu. rotary feeder. "I like the rotary design of the feeder, but the quality of parts and construction is poor. After only three months of operation, an adjusting nut on the feeder came loose and now the feeder has to be torn down and fixed. I had to replace bearings in three of my eight feeders last year."

On the plus side, "My 1990 Gehl 312 Scavenger II manure spreader is a best buy. I use it to haul all types of manure from solid to liquid and it spreads each type evenly. I really like the square auger in the tank."

"My 1989 Haybuster 147 no-till drill has plenty of weight for all no-till applications. It has two seed boxes, which works great for planting two different kinds of crops. The double offset openers handle even the toughest trash. It's an all-around excellent piece of equipment."

**Mike Hudson, Eaton, Ohio:** "My 1982 Deere 314 lawn mower is a best buy. The hydrostatic drive works great and the Kohler engine is superior."

**Bill Bentz, Utica, Ohio:** "My 1989 Dodge 1-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is a best buy. I put 25,000 miles on it in the first 10 months. No service problems. It gets 17 to 20 mpg which is great compared to what I was getting before with my 1-ton pickup equipped with a gas engine. It also has lots of power."

**James Hulbert, Iroquois, S. Dak.:** "It's lightweight, has lots of power, and is easy to service," says James, pleased with his 1990 Stihl 026 chain saw.

"My worst buy are Toyo tires. I bought them because they had a 60,000 mile warranty, but after less than 30,000 miles all the tread was gone. The company provided

another set, but now after another 30,000 miles the tread is gone on them, too. The tires also ride rough."

**James Britt, South Fulton, Tenn.:** "It's a pleasure to drive and has impressive fuel economy and power. The 5-year/5,000-hour warranty helps make it a best buy," says James, pleased owner of a 1990 Deere 4555 tractor equipped with 18.4 by 42 radial tires.

**Richard Horth, Hudson, Colo.:** Richard's pleased with his Flex-Coil 85-ft. pull-type field sprayer. "I like the 1,000-gal. capacity and the ability to fold and unfold the booms without getting off the tractor. On-off and pressure controls are all regulated electronically from the tractor cab. With wind breakers installed I can spray in a 25 mph wind with no problem."

**Ned Collin, Purcell, Okla.:** Ned nominates his 1990 Massey Ferguson 828 round baler as a "best buy". "It lets me bale hay directly behind my swather to make round bale haylage, and it makes an equally nice bale on very dry, weedy grass hay. In either case there's no problem starting a bale. It's easy to operate."

"My worst buy is Nationwide 6-volt batteries made in Fort Worth, Texas. They won't hold a charge. I went through four batteries before realizing that the problem wasn't my tractor. I installed a different battery brand and have had no more problems."

**Dave Aikman, Spencer, Ohio:** Dave says his "best buy" is his 1990 Dodge 1-ton pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. "It gets good mileage, has excellent power, and starts great in cold weather. Rides well for a 1-ton pickup, too."

**Bill Meisner, Varna, Ill.:** "My 1990 Deere 9600 combine has enough capacity for any size corn head. It's very easy on the operator."

**Gary Duspiva, Parma, Idaho:** Gary's disappointed with his 1990 AT & T cordless telephone, model 5500. "Range is limited to 200 ft. and the ringer is so soft that I can hear it only when everything is quiet. I bought it hoping for a 1,000-ft. range and hoping that I could hear the ringer over shop tools and running motors. I guess FCC rules are so tough that manufacturers can't supply a product to meet my needs. Even a 500-ft. range would have helped save a lot of steps and would have kept me connected with the phone line."

**Herman Dyer, Cameron, Texas:** "No other saw can hold a candle to a Husky," says Herman, pleased with his Husqvarna 61 chain saw. "I've used it for four years and have replaced only a few bars, chains, and two sets of isolation mounts. Except for the difference in paint, a man would be hard pressed to tell the difference between it and a brand new one."

"My Wen polisher/sander is a worst buy. I used the wheel supplied with the machine to sharpen one hoe blade and two lawn mower blades. A plastic gear coupling between the motor and gearbox stripped. I sent it to the company and they informed me they had a minimum \$39 shipping and handling charge for all repairs. There was another charge for a new type of motor. (My motor was OK). I told them if their guarantee was no better than that they could return my first and last Wen product. They returned it. I placed a "junk" sign on it, put it in a yard sale, and sold it for \$5."

**John Weber, Anchor, Ill.:** John bought two new high traction Armstrong tractor tires for the rear wheels on his Ford Jubilee tractor. "The tire carcasses were so flimsy that as the lugs ran over the ground, the

flexing action broke the cords under several of the lugs and wore holes in the tube. I hadn't gone to the field with the tires, but just used them in the yard a few days. The company gave me a bad time about exchanging them for turf tires."

**Charles Oller, Vivian, S. Dak.:** "My Hesston 6450 windrower has performed well with only minor repairs."

"I've also had good luck with my Makita 14-in. chop saw."

On the "worst buy" side, "My 1990 Speedqueen washer sounds worse than a threshing machine."

Charles adds that his White 271 disk "doesn't get the weeds and leaves the ground ridged."

**Jack Barnett, Thornton, Texas:** Jack says his "worst buy" is his Zetor 6245 4-WD tractor. "The front seals went out twice and they still leak after being repaired. The 3-pt. lift 'leaks' down and the power steering went out. The tractor has only 135 hours on it."

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**Tim Sorensen, Viborg, S. Dak.:** "My 1990 Miller quick tach front-end loader is easy to put on and take off. It lifts round bales with ease and is reasonably priced."

**Gerald Lintner, Jackson, Mo.:** "It makes tight, uniform bales that we can stack with a small tractor and front-end loader. I'd buy it again," says Gerald, pleased with his 1988 Case-IH 8420 round baler.

**Donald Hartman, Brutus, Mich.:** Donald says his Dodge Power Ram 250 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine is a "best buy". "It has lots of power, gets a little over 20 mph, and is fun to drive."

On the negative side, "My Ford 4610 2-WD 52 hp tractor has good power and drives nice, but is so light it won't pull as much as my 30-year-old Fordson diesel tractor which has only 42 hp. I sold it after about 6 months."

**Ronald Limon, Coweta, Okla.:** Ronald's "best buy" is his 1989 Deere 9500 combine. "It's easy to service and has plenty of power. It doesn't lose grain and it produces a cleaner sample than any other combine I've used."

"My 1989 Deere 4455 tractor has more power than my 4640 and uses less fuel than my 4430 did."

**Don Ward, Chula, Mo.:** Don likes his Morton 60 by 132-ft. building equipped with a 60 by 36-ft. insulated shop on one end. "The company did everything they said they'd do and they did it on time. The construction crew was very efficient and knowledgeable. They pay attention to small details and build a high quality building."

"My 1978 Deere 4040 tractor is also a best buy."

"My 1986 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 6-cylinder engine has 113,000 miles with no problems."

**John Thies, Hazelwood, Mo.:** John says his Ford 1520 tractor is a "best buy". "It works great with a Bush Hog rear-mounted mower for mowing around buildings, fences, and hard-to-get-at places."

"My Ford 1210 and 5610 tractors are also best buys."